

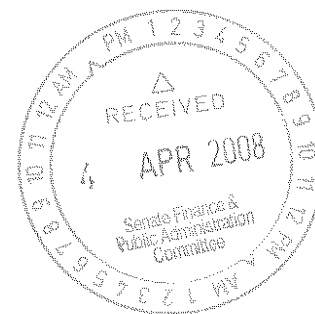
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Additional Estimates 2007-08 – February 2008



Question: HS10

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Department of Human Services – Access Card Expenses

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Hansard Page F&PA 51-52

SENATOR Coonan asked on 22/02/2008:

Senator COONAN—That deals with the savings. The design and build of this access card was very well advanced. I want to deal with three main areas: first of all, the costs so far; secondly, I want to deal with the process for winding up the project—that deals with property, staff and whatever; and, thirdly, I want to deal with what I would regard as the gaps left in forward prudence and coordination of delivery of services that the access card was designed to address. That gives you an idea of where I am going. Could we please start with what this thing has cost the Australian taxpayer for apparently no benefit?

Ms Hartland—The total expenditure of the access card to 31 December was \$116 million. We expect that there is still expenditure of probably around \$25 million in relation to staff contractual exit costs. I think that answers your first question in terms of cost.

Senator COONAN—What is the breakdown of that?

Ms Hartland—In terms of staffing costs, contractual costs, I think I might have to take that on notice.

Answer:

Total expenditure on the Access Card up to 31 December 2007 was \$116m comprising:

\$30 million – employee expenses

\$55 million – consultants and contractors

\$12 million – capital expenses

\$19 million – all other expenses not included above, relating to property, minor equipment publishing, office supplies, communication, printing, recruitment and travel.